

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
SSM-03 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 /120 W
-----070559 211235Z /17

O 211216Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8923
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09614

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, LE, FR, IS
SUBJECT: FRENCH ASK FOR US SUPPORT OF FRENCH OFFER
PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL

REF: USUN 991

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTRY ACTING DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE
EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS SERVANT CALLED EMBOFF
TO THE QUAI MORNING OF MARCH 21 TO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST
FOR US SUPPORT FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL.
END SUMMARY.

1. SERVANT NOTED THAT USAND FRENCH UN MISSIONS IN
CLOSE TOUCH BUT SAID FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DIRECTED
HIM TO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT FOR FRANCE'S
OFFER TO SEND A BATTALION TO LEBANON. SERVANT SAID
THAT FRANCE HAD DECIDED TO RESPOND TO THE SECRETARY
GENERAL'S REPORT WHICH CALLED FOR 5 BATTALION OF
600 MEN EACH AND 1000 LOGISTICAL PERSONNEL, BY OFFERING
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A 600 MAN COMBAT BATTALION WITH ALL NECESSARY
EQUIPMENT. BATTALION WILL BE PREPARED DEPART FOR
LEBANON BY AIR ON VERY SHORT NOTICE. SERVANT SAID
THAT FRANCE BELIEVES THAT THE US APPROVES OF THIS
OFFER IN SUPPORT OF THE US-SPONSORED UNSC RESOLUTION
AND IS COUNTING ON US SUPPORT WHEN QUERIED BY UNSYG
WALDHEIM.

2. SERVANT SAID THAT FRANCE HAD TOLD THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THAT THE ESSENTIAL FRENCH MOTIVATION IN MAKING THIS OFFER WAS THE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY WHICH FRANCE FEELS TOWARDS LEBANON. THAT IS ALSO WHY PRESIDENT GISCARD HAS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN THE PAST MADE DECLARATIONS IN SUPPORT OF LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

3. FRANCE BELIEVES THAT THE UN FORCE IN WHICH IT IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE CAN BE A POSITIVE ELEMENT FOR STABILITY IN LEBANON AND IN THE REGION AND A SAFEGUARD FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON AND THUS A POSITIVE ELEMENT IN THE BROADER QUEST FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE. FRANCE REALIZES THAT THE UN FORCE IN LEBANON WILL CONFRONT MULTIPLE DIFFICULTIES AND THAT IT IS AN UNDERTAKING OF PROBABLY LONG DURATION. FRANCE ACCEPTS THIS BECAUSE OF ITS SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO LEBANON.

4. SERVANT CONCLUDED BY REPEATING THE REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT FOR FRANCE'S OFFER AND SAYING THAT THE GOF WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY COMMENT THE USG MIGHT WISH TO OFFER.

5. COMMENT: ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE DO SUPPORT THE FRENCH OFFER, RECOMMEND WE BE AUTHORIZED AS SOON
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AS POSSIBLE TO INFORM THE GOF THAT WE ARE BOTH APPRECIATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE QUICK FRENCH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL.
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